



The 14th Heineken Catamaran Regatta Sets Sail on Sunday

The Beach of the Holiday Inn Sun Spree Resort is filled with catamarans as sailors from seven countries prepare for one of Aruba's most enjoyable sailing events. The party mood began on Thursday afternoon as Edwin Lodder, regatta organizer and Patrick Melchior of Heineken welcomed the local press and participants for a casual and informative get together on the beach of the Holiday Inn.

Joined on the podium by Pauline Dijo, Banquet Manager of the Holiday Inn and Suzy Maduro of Setar, one of the regatta sponsors, they outlined the schedule for the coming races and introduced the judges and safety team. Edwin Lodder also thanked the many sponsors that have made the races possible, and the Aruba Watersports Center for providing the safety boats for the rescue team.

Beginning on Sunday afternoon there will be an intense three days of races then a day off on Wednesday. On Tuesday at 3 p.m. a VIP-race will be held in which sponsors, press and relations can participate. Thursday will feature a long distance race that should last about 3 hours and the Finals will take place on Friday. There are fifty-four boats competing measuring between five and six meters in a total of ten races with 175 participants over all.

Returning winners from last year's regatta plus champion and Olympics level contenders from the Netherlands, Great Britain, Switzerland, Austria, Belgium, France, the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba will be competing for prizes and trophies.

Patrick Melchior of Heineken pointed out that one of the best things about the Catamaran Regatta is the daily party on the beach. Sunday's race will begin with a blast of an opening party starting from noon until sunset with D.J. Pecaó and live music provided by Tsunami from 4 p.m. There will be plenty of Heineken available and everyone is welcome to come to watch the races and party 'til the sun goes down. Every day there will be happy hours from 4 to 6 p.m. and the public is invited to attend any day. The final festivities will take place on Friday at Moomba Beach Bar and Restaurant between the Holiday Inn and the Marriott resorts. The more the merrier to cheer for the winners and console the losers.

The distributors of Heineken in conjunction with the Aruba Tourist Authority are proud to host this year's competitions, which are growing more popular each year. There will be TV coverage from the Netherlands and up to the minute action will be posted to the internet at www.arubaregatta.com.